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29 June 1950

## MEMORANDUM FOR Assistant Director for Operations

From: The Assistant General Counsel.

1. As a result of the invasion of South Korea by North Korea, certain statements were made by members of the Congress indicating that CIA had been caught "flatfooted." The Senate Appropriations Committee demanded an explanation as to why the United States was not adequately advised on the communist attack on South Korea. Leading the demand for testimony on this point was Senator Bridges of New Hampshire. The Director appeared before the Senate Appropriations Committee on 26 June in Executive Session, and everything which appeared in the press subsequently regarding the meeting was "leaked." As always occurs, much of the data based on such leaks which became public was erroneous.

2. The Director placed before the Committee excepts from CIA reports which had been prepared on the situation, and forwarded to the appropriate officials in Washington. He stated that it had not been possible in this instance, and was rarely possible, to have in advance an exact copy of the enemy march orders indicating D-Day and H-Hour (with which the Committee agreed), but that we could certainly indicate the existence of troop concentrations and their capabilities for aggression, and that we had done so

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In this instance, the Director read extracts to the Committee from OME 18-50, "Current Capabilities of the Northern Korean Regime," which was distributed to the Departments of State and Defense on 20 June 1950 — four days before the invasion. This included the statement that, "Trained and equipped units of the Communist 'People's Army' are being deployed southward in the area of the 38th Parallel."

3. The effect of the Director's testimony was tremendous favorably. The following is quoted from the Associated Press Ticker on 26 June:

"Senator Knowland (R., Calif.), one of the sternest critics of the Administration's Far Eastern policies, told reporters after listening to Willensbutter that 'I am satisfied that the CIA is and was performing its function.'

"Another member of the Appropriations Committee, Senator McClellan (D., Ark.), also said that as far as he could learn, Willensbutter and the Intelligence Agency had done its job.

"Senator Russell (D., Ga.) also said when he came out of the closed Committee hearing that 'I don't think that fellow (Willensbutter) was surprised' by the North Korean attack."

4. Several of the members of the Committee have since expressed both to the Director and myself their complete confidence in the CIA handling of the Korean situation and the manner in which we are operating.

5. The New York Herald Tribune and the New York Times for Tuesday, 27 June, indicated certain statements by the Director to the effect that CIA does not evaluate intelligence or interpret its reports. These have been followed

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by editorial criticism of these purported statements. All such statements are complete misquotations and misinterpretations of the Director's testimony, and not in accord with the facts.

Walter L. Pforzheimer

Drgd/cy to AD100 - by hand of WLP - 29 June '50  
cc - Central Records.

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